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**SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

July 1986

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of  
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This chronology is organized by region, country, and date of event. The date of event is sometimes difficult to determine because it varies from source to source. Some sources cite the actual date of the incident whereas others appear to use the official news release dateline. When possible, the actual date of the occurrence is listed.

Analysts contributing to this chronology are LaVerle Berry, Robert Handloff, T. Robert Lenaghan, Moses Pinkston, and Rachel Warner.

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East/Central Africa

Uganda

05/07/86 The Army arrests more than 40 people for suspected involvement in an underground movement, the Force Obote Back (FOBA), working for the return of ousted President Milton Obote. The arrests are made at a pub in Kampala's suburb of Kisenyi and the detainees are taken to the nearby Lubiri Army Barracks.

Horn of Africa

Somalia

05/07/86 The Somali National Movement (SNM) claims to have successfully attacked Somali government forces, killing 37 soldiers and wounding 37 others, in addition to destroying vehicles and other equipment, during several battles in the northwest at the end of June. These engagements are the latest in SNM's guerrilla attacks on isolated outposts and garrisons of the central government's armed forces.

Sudan

02/07/86 The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) reports that its forces recently captured a 200-passenger river boat traveling between Al-Rank and Malakal. Since the passengers were civilians, they were all released. The boat is to be destroyed, the SPLA using the incident once more to warn the river transport corporation that steamers traveling between Kosti and Malakal do so at their own risk. The SPLA also says that in recent raids around Terakeka, just north of Juba, 147 government fighters were killed. SPLA forces took control of Terakeka District and pursued the fleeing government soldiers close to Juba, where the SPLA insurgents now pose a threat to the airport of the major southern administrative capital.

14/07/86 The government announces that it plans to bring businessman Fu'ad Ahmad Makki to trial for his role in an alleged plot against the government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. Makki is accused of being the contact for former President Numeiri, whom the government accuses of plotting against it. Numeiri currently enjoys the protection of the Egyptian Government, which so far has resisted Sudanese attempts at

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extradition and has refused to accept the validity of the current government's accusations against him.

16/07/86 According to reports from Anyanya II, a group of southern fighters allied with the government's forces, the SPLA is facing a serious split within its ranks because a number of officers, who prefer a negotiated settlement to the conflict with the government, have recently refused to take part in military operations. Anyanya also reports that SPLA leader John Garang is living in Ethiopia under such tight Ethiopian security that he has not been permitted any contact with other SPLA members. Still, Anyanya alleges that Ethiopian authorities continue to train SPLA fighters in camps along the border between Ethiopia and Sudan.

19/07/86 Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi announces that his forthcoming official visit to the Soviet Union will begin on 12 August. The visit is intended to institute good relations with the Soviet Union and to restore balance to Sudan's foreign policy, which is based upon nonalignment. The trip, originally scheduled for July, is the outcome of commitments made by the previous interim military government to the Soviet Union.

21/07/86 Anyanya II claims to have seized 2 SPLA bases near Bentiu, west of Malakal, killing 150 opponents and seizing weapons and ammunition. These battles are among the largest between Anyanya II and its former SPLA ally.

30/07/86 Juba airport, closed for about 2 weeks as a result of fighting between government forces and SPLA guerrillas, is reopened after being completely secured, according to government broadcasts from Khartoum. Khartoum sources deny

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rumors about deteriorating security in the city, and say that Sudan Airways will continue flights in and out of Juba.

31/07/86 Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi and SPLA leader John Garang open talks in Ethiopia on a range of topics and problems facing Sudan, including the ongoing insurgency in the southern regions of the country. The meeting between the two Sudanese leaders is part of an attempt at national reconciliation foreseen in the Koka Dam (Ethiopia) Declaration of last year, which, among other things, calls for abrogation of the "September laws" instituting Sharia law in Sudan and for a convocation of a constitutional conference. The two leaders also discuss the lifting of the current state of emergency, a cease-fire, and the cancellation of military agreements with Egypt and Libya.

Sudan/Ethiopia

30/07/86 Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, while in the Ethiopian capital for a meeting with Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leader John Garang, meets with Ethiopian leader Mengistu. The two heads of state discuss the current state of relations between their countries and the reasons for the deterioration in these relations.

Sahel

Chad

05/07/86 Representatives of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), led by Goukouni Oueddei, say that GUNT is still determined to resume negotiations with the Habre government in pursuit of national reconciliation. In this regard, the representatives point to the current tour of African capitals by the GUNT foreign minister and express their regrets at the circumstances which prevented a meeting of the two opposing sides in March.

Southern Africa

Mozambique

11/07/86 A Portugal-based spokesman for the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), Jorge Correia, announces that

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RENAMO Secretary General Evo Fernandes has resigned his post in a bid to end months of speculation about a divisive split in the movement. Other reports claim that rumors naming Fernandes as the leader of a Portuguese faction within RENAMO caused RENAMO President Afonso Dhlakama to demote Fernandes.

12/07/86 Seven people are injured when a bomb explodes in the Alto Mae B ward in Maputo. The bomb also shatters the glass in the main door of Papelaria Mocambican bookstore. A child, who is among the victims, told police that one of his friends found the bomb in a trash can and hung it on his bicycle. The bomb was probably planted by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) as part of its disruption campaign.

**Mozambique/Malawi**

05/07/86 In a rare interview, Mozambican Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mabote accuses Malawi of helping Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) guerrillas both materially and logistically. He also claims that infiltrations by RENAMO guerrillas directly from South Africa are continuing, "as though the 1984 Nkomati Accord had never been signed." Since South Africa is unable to make flights every day into Tete and Zambezia Provinces, Mabote contends, Malawi is frequently facilitating the infiltration of guerrillas from its territory.

**South Africa**

01/07/86 A bomb explodes in a liquor store in central Johannesburg, wounding eight people. The explosion, one in a series of attacks on civilian targets in the past week, rocks an area close to corporate offices where a visiting delegation from Yale University is meeting. Meanwhile, South Africa's black labor movement urges widespread disruptive action to protest the 12 June emergency decree and to demand the release of the two labor leaders detained under its provisions. The two developments coincide with the formal abolition of the pass laws.

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South Africa

04/07/86 A bomb placed between two cars explodes outside a supermarket in Silverton, a white suburb of Pretoria, injuring at least 15 people of all races, some seriously. The explosion is the twelfth in South African cities since the declaration of the state of emergency on 12 June, and the third this week. Other bombs have exploded in Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Queenstown. The African National Congress (ANC) is routinely blamed by the government for such attacks.

04/07/86 More than 1,100 workers from 4 De Beers Diamond mines around Kimberley are reportedly on strike, the first sign that the protest against emergency detentions has reached the mines. The strike started as the country's fragile labor relations neared chaos with government employers and black unions heading for confrontation over the mass detentions of unionists. In addition, wage disputes in the country's two biggest industries, the mining and metal sectors, and the decision by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) to call a day of action on 14 July have added to the gathering storm clouds.

09/07/86 The government announces that an order barring trade unions from holding indoor meetings in the Johannesburg area was incorrect and would be changed. The ban, affecting more than 30 community groups, student bodies, and trade unions, was published on 7 July in the government gazette, provoking a storm of protest from unions and employers alike. Labor experts said that it would make it virtually impossible for unions to do their job. A police statement says that the organizations mentioned in the new announcement will exclude all trade unions and trade union federations, and that the ban on indoor meetings would be limited to Soweto.

11/07/86 Jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela refuses to meet with British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe during the latter's visit to South Africa in August. The refusal of

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Mandela, whose release Sir Geoffrey has made a condition for proposed negotiations between the white regime and the black majority, will probably deal a fatal blow to the British peace mission since it would result in a one-sided dialogue undertaken without the backing or involvement of any of the principal anti-apartheid forces. Other leading opponents of the Pretoria government, including Bishop Desmond Tutu and United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders, have already said that they will not meet with Howe.

11/07/86 The police claim that 10 ANC guerrillas have been killed in 2 separate battles with security forces, bringing the total number of ANC guerrillas killed during the state of emergency to 19. In the first clash in the northeastern Transvaal near the border with Botswana, the police claimed to have killed six guerrillas who had infiltrated South Africa from Botswana. The second battle took place in the eastern Cape near King William's Town, where police intercepted a car carrying four armed men. In a separate incident, the village of Magogwe in the homeland of Bophuthatswana was rocked by explosions on 10 July; the police did not suspect political motives. There are also continued reports of fighting between radical and conservative groups in Soweto.

14/07/86 Thousands of students stay away from school and workers stage sporadic strikes and sit-ins to protest the imposition of the state of emergency on 12 June. About 1.7 million students were due to return to school for the first time since the state of emergency, but reports from around the country indicate that attendance in some areas is less than 50 percent. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) had called for a day of protest to demand the release of union officials, who were among thousands of people detained under the emergency decree. The best known of the union detainees, COSATU president Elijah Barayi, was released on 11 July. However, many of the country's blacks work normally, with the only widespread absences occurring in the eastern part of Cape Province, a UDF stronghold.

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16/07/86 The South African Air Force (SAAF) unveils a new fighter aircraft, the Cheetah, which was developed by the Armaments Development and Production Corporation (ARMSCOR) and is based on the French-built Mirage III. The new airplane is said to match the Soviet MiG-23 in ability and sophistication.

16/07/86 The government withdraws charges against the editor of the Cape Times, Tony Heard, for having quoted ANC leader Oliver Tambo on 4 November 1985. Instead, the owner of the newspaper, South African Associated Newspapers, will be prosecuted.

21/07/86 Bishop Desmond Tutu meets with President Botha for the second time in little more than a month to discuss the internal security crisis in the country. While both men describe the meeting as a "friendly exchange," Botha later questions Tutu's standing as a church leader and declares his determination not to talk to churchmen until they can speak with one voice. In another incident, church leader Allan Boesak claims that he was teargassed in his car following a church service.

22/07/86 Government authorities announce the capture of a large number of ANC guerrillas said to have been responsible for a series of bomb attacks around Durban. The announcement follows an increase in encounters between government and ANC forces. The capture of the guerrillas, according to Minister of Law and Order Louis LeGrange, was aided by information obtained from the interrogation of people held under the 12 June emergency decree. More than 4,500 people have reportedly been detained during the emergency.

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27/07/86 Security forces claim that they shot and killed two armed ANC insurgents, one of whom was described by the officially controlled news organizations as the country's leading terrorist. According to security forces, the two insurgents were killed a few days before in a gun battle in Katlehong, a black township 30 miles southeast of Johannesburg. One of them, Zondi Roland, was reportedly wanted in connection with 17 bomb attacks.

Zimbabwe  
31/06/86 Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Eddison Zvobgo announces that the government intends to abolish the parliamentary seats reserved for the white minority next year. Other plans include the elimination of Parliament's upper house, the Senate. Both moves will be permitted in 1987 by the Lancaster House Constitution, and both are seen as preliminaries to a one-party system, which is not allowed by the Constitution until 1990. The country's white population, estimated to have stabilized at about 100,000 out of a total population of some 7.4 million, enjoy parliamentary representation far out of proportion to their numbers. It is certain that the Mugabe government will be able to acquire the 70 votes needed to end the white parliamentary preserve.

10/07/86 The Reagan Administration suspends disbursement of economic aid to Zimbabwe in response to sharp criticism leveled by a high Zimbabwean official at the US Embassy's July 4 reception. The criticism prompted former US President Carter and the senior American diplomat to walk out of the embassy. This marks the latest in a series of incidents which have severely strained relations between the two countries. In 1983, angered over Zimbabwe's refusal to vote in the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Soviet Union for shooting down a South Korean airliner, the United States cut Zimbabwe's aid from \$73 million to \$40 million.

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Zimbabwe

16/07/86 The House of Assembly votes in favor of a renewal of the state of emergency for a further 6 months. The state of emergency was first introduced on 11 November 1965 by the white Rhodesian Government on the eve of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI), and has been in constant effect ever since. It gives the government sweeping powers for indefinite detentions without trial and search and seizure. The government justifies the current renewal by pointing to the continuing dissident activity in Matabeleland.

23/07/86 Prime Minister Mugabe announces a new police rank structure policy which will completely abolish the once white-dominated force. Under the new policy, all entrants to the police force will join at the same rank. Until 1978, there were no blacks above the rank of patrol officer. Since then, many black noncommissioned officers who joined as constables have been commissioned, and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) now has its second black commissioner, Henry Nukurazhizha. There are believed to be less than 100 whites left in the estimated 8,000-member ZRP.

Zimbabwe/Mozambique

11/07/86 The Ministry of Defense announces that four Air Force officers died in a plane crash in Mozambique the day before. The crash of the Dakota aircraft occurred shortly after takeoff from Chimoio airfield and was thought to have been caused by a technical fault. However, some observers believe that the plane was hit by a Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO)-launched missile.

West Africa

01/07/86 The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) holds its ninth annual summit meeting at Abuja, Nigeria. The 2-day conference, attended by 10 heads of state and 6 accredited representatives, focuses on a number of economic issues within the region including the creation of an ECOWAS monetary zone. It also examines the impact of the second phase of the ECOWAS protocol which allows the free movement

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of persons within the community. Nigeria finally signed the protocol in June 1986, after having expelled a total of about one million ECOWAS aliens in 1983 and 1985.

Equatorial Guinea

19/07/86 Thirty people are arrested in the capital of Malabo for staging an attempted coup on the night of 19 July. Among those arrested are President N'Guema's uncle, Deputy Prime Minister Fructoso Mba Onana. The plotters had tried to occupy the Presidential Palace while N'Guema was on an official visit to France. The attempted coup seems to be the result of the personal squabbling that is common at the highest levels of the government, rather than a symptom of profound ideological or political opposition.

Guinea Bissau

07/21/86 Six men accused of plotting the unsuccessful coup attempt of October 1985 are executed. Among those killed is former Vice President Paulo Correia. Earlier this month, another of the accused plotters died in prison, bringing to six the total number of deaths in prison before the execution. The decision to carry out the execution indicates that someone in the regime of President Vieira deemed it more advisable to execute the accused plotters after a trial than to continue to kill them one by one in prison. Either way, as a result of this episode, Guinea Bissau's reputation for respect of human rights has taken a deep plunge, potentially souring relations with the West.

Liberia

28/06/86 Talks between a coalition of opposition parties and the ruling National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) break up as President Doe rejects the proposed agenda put forth by the mediating Liberian Council of Churches (LCC). The failure of this initiative indicates that the Doe government is not willing to capitalize on whatever goodwill it created earlier in June by releasing those suspected of complicity in the November 1985 coup attempt. Therefore, chances that Doe might open up the Liberian political system enough to reduce his government's isolation remain as slim as ever.

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West Africa

Liberia

07/07/86 A warrant is issued for the arrest of Liberian Action Party executive committee member and leading figure Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf after she stages an illegal political rally in the coastal town of Buchanan. Johnson-Sirleaf managed to evade arrest after the rally and her whereabouts are now unknown. She had been released from jail just last month after being held for suspected complicity in the unsuccessful November 1985 coup attempt.

Liberia/Sierra Leone/Guinea

12/07/86 The Presidents of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea meet in the Guinean capital of Conakry in an effort to resolve the differences that have arisen between Sierra Leone and Liberia since the aborted coup attempt in Liberia during November 1985. The meeting seems to have finally eased Liberian President Doe's fears about Sierra Leone's attitude toward his government. An agreement is reached which results in the opening of the Sierra Leone-Liberian border which has been closed ever since the November coup attempt. Further plans are announced for a nonaggression pact between the two countries.

Nigeria

01/07/86 Nigeria's Justice Minister releases two British engineers who had spent 2 years in a Nigerian prison for allegedly stealing an aircraft. The two were sentenced in October 1985 to 14-year prison terms for allegedly readying an aircraft for a flight from Lagos to Britain. They were acting on behalf of the British owners of the Siddeley jet who were attempting to repossess it. The release of the two British citizens corresponds with a formal request from Nigerian authorities for the extradition from England of four former Nigerian ministers now residing in London. The four ministers, Chief Adisa Akinloye, Emmanuel Osamor, Sunday Esang, and Mallam Ali Makele, are accused of corruption and abuse of office.

05/07/86 After more than 2 years in detention, former President Shagari, Nigeria's last civilian head of state, is released

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from prison and returned to his hometown of Sokoto. Shagari's Vice President, Alex Ekwueme, is also released. A jury assembled by the current military government of Babangida judged the two innocent of the charges of corruption leveled against them by former military leader Buhari following the December 1983 coup. Military authorities in Lagos also announce that the cases of some 1,000 other officeholders in the Shagari government will be reviewed.